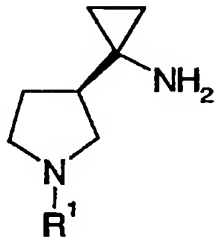
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing an optically active compound represented by formula (4), or a salt thereof, [[:]]

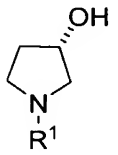
~~[F2]~~



(4)

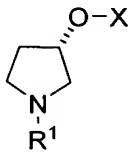
wherein R^1 represents a protecting group ~~for the amino group, or a salt thereof~~, the process comprising:

reacting a compound of formula (1)



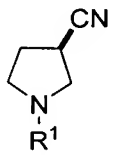
(1)

with an alkylsulfonyl chloride or an arylsulfonyl chloride, in the presence of a base, to form a compound of formula (2)



(2) ;

reacting the compound of formula (2) with a cyanating agent to form a compound of formula (3)

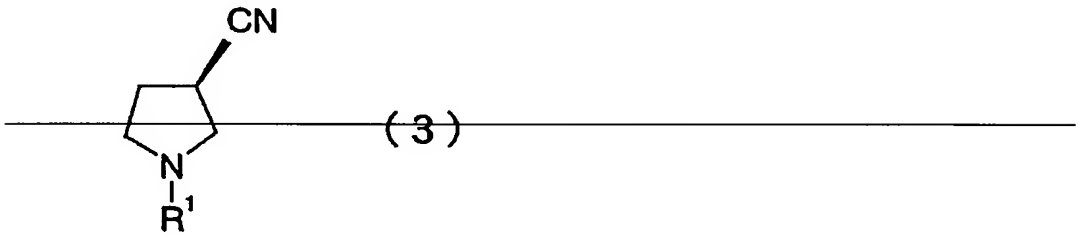


(3) ; and

reacting the compound of formula (3) with an alkyl metal compound, a titanium (IV) reagent, and optionally a Lewis acid, to form the compound of formula (4), or a salt thereof;

~~characterized in that a reagent prepared from an titanium(IV) reagent and an alkylmetal compound is reacted with an optically active compound represented by formula (3):~~

~~[F1]~~



~~wherein R^1 has the same meaning as defined above, optionally in the presence of a Lewis acid~~.

Claim 2 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the titanium(IV) reagent is a titanium(IV) alkoxide.

Claim 3 (Original): The process according to claim 1, wherein the titanium(IV) reagent is titanium(IV) tetraisopropoxide, methyltitanium(IV) triisopropoxide, or chlorotitanium(IV) triisopropoxide.

Claim 4 (Original): The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkylmetal compound is an ethylmetal compound.

Claim 5 (Original): The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkylmetal compound is an alkyl Grignard reagent or a dialkylzinc.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to claim 5, comprising the alkyl Grignard reagent, wherein the alkyl Grignard reagent is an ethyl Grignard reagent.

Claim 7 (Original): The process according to claim 6, wherein the ethyl Grignard reagent is ethylmagnesium chloride or ethylmagnesium bromide.

Claim 8 (Original): The process according to claim 7, wherein the ethyl Grignard reagent is ethylmagnesium bromide.

Claim 9 (Original): The process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the alkylmetal compound is diethylzinc.

Claims 10-15 (Cancelled).

Claim 16 (New): The process of claim 1, comprising reacting the compound of formula (3) with an alkyl metal compound, a titanium (IV) reagent, and a Lewis acid, to form the compound of formula (4), or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The process of claim 1,

wherein the alkylsulfonyl chloride is selected from the group consisting of methanesulfonyl chloride and trifluoromethanesulfonyl chloride;

wherein the arylsulfonyl chloride is selected from the group consisting of phenylsulfonyl chloride and p-toluenesulfonyl chloride;

wherein the cyanating agent is selected from the group consisting of sodium cyanide, potassium cyanide, and tetrabutylammonium cyanide;

wherein the titanium (IV) reagent is selected from the group consisting of titanium (IV) tetraisopropoxide, methyltitanium (IV) triisopropoxide, and chlorotitanium (IV) triisopropoxide;

wherein the Lewis acid is selected from the group consisting of trifluoroboron, aluminum chloride, and lithium iodide;

wherein the alkyl metal compound is selected from the group consisting of ethyl magnesium chloride, ethyl magnesium bromide, and diethyl zinc; and

wherein the protecting group is selected from the group consisting of tert-butoxycarbonyl, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichlorocarbonyl, benzyloxycarbonyl, paramethoxybenzyloxycarbonyl, paranitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, formyl, acetyl, propanoyl, tert-butyloyl, pivaloyl, benzoyl, benzyl, α-methylbenzyl, trityl, diphenylmethyl(benzhydryl), paranitrobenzyl, paramethoxybenzyl, phenethyl, methoxyphenyl, and tert-butoxycarbonylamino.

Claim 18 (New): The process of claim 17, wherein the base is triethylamine.

Claim 19 (New): The process of claim 17, comprising the Lewis acid.

Claim 20 (New): The process of claim 17, comprising the arylsulfonyl chloride.

Claim 21 (New): The process of claim 17, comprising the alkylsulfonyl chloride.